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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/007,104 | 12/03/2001 | Fukuharu Sudo | 7217/47270-Z-RE/JHM/KJB | 3624 |

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01/24/2003

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EXAMINER

VO, NGUYEN THANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2682

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/007,104

Applicant(s)

SUDO ET AL.

Examiner

Nguyen T Vo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/932,942.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1. The original patent, or a statement as to loss or inaccessibility of the original patent, must be received before this reissue application can be allowed. See 37 CFR 1.178.
2. If applicant would like to have every references listed in the original patent also listed in this reissue application, an information disclosure statement should be filed in the next response.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As to claim 6, the recitations "the high hierarchy" and the "low hierarchy" lack clear antecedent basis. In order to overcome this rejection, it is suggested that claim 6 should depend on claim 5 instead of claim 1. **For the purpose of examination, claim 6 is treated in this action as if it depends on claim 5.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahlberg (5,758,295) in view of Posso (5,627,531).

Regarding claim 5, Ahlberg discloses a portable communication terminal apparatus comprising a body (see figure 2A); transmitting and receiving means (see the transceiver 124 in figure 2B); selecting operation means (see the keys 112 and 114); operation detection means (see column 9 line 49 to column 10 line 17); storage means 122 (see also column 10 lines 40-46, column 11 lines 56-67, figures 6A-9B); display means 110, and control means 120 (see figure 2B). Ahlberg, however, fails to disclose that the selection operation means is operable by a user in a first direction along a surface of the body and in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction, and that the display layout when the selection operation means is operated in the first direction is recognizably different from the display layout when the selection operation means is operated in the second first direction. Posso discloses a selection operation means 18 which is operable by a user in a first direction along a surface of the

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body (see column 3 lines 59-63) and in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction (see column 5 lines 25-30). Posso further discloses that the display layout when the selection operation means is operated in the first direction (see the display layout in figure 3) is recognizably different from the display layout when the selection operation means is operated in the second first direction (see the display layout in figure 6A-6B). See also columns 3-6. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the above teaching of Posso to Ahlberg, in order to obtain a fairly sophisticated user interface that is compact, energy-efficient, reliable, and can implement a hierarchical menu system (as suggested by Posso at column 1 lines 46-51 and column 2 lines 17-19).

As to claim 6, first of all as mentioned above **for the purpose of examination, claim 6 is treated in this action as if it depends on claim 5.** The combination of Ahlberg and Posso discloses the claimed limitations (see figure 3 and column 4 line 56 to column 6 in Posso).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-4 are allowed.

As to claims 1-4, the prior art fail to disclose or render obvious the claimed invention for the reasons as set forth in the parent application 08/932,942.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yamagishi (6,178,338) discloses dial shuttle in a cellular telephone (see figure 2).

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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nguyen T Vo whose telephone number is (703) 308-6728. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday and alternate Monday from 8:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on (703)308-6739. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for all communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Nguyen Vo
January 22, 2003



NGUYENT.VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER